USDA

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Food and
Nutrition
Service**

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SUBJECT: SNAP — Revised Quality Control (QC) Review Procedures for Guidance
on Extension for Afghani Special Immigrants

TO: All Regional Directors
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently issued a guidance under Arthur Foley's
signature on The Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 under the Omnibus
Appropriations Act of 2009 (Section 602, Division F of Public Law 111-08) enacted on
March 11, 2009, which extended Afghani Special Immigrant (SIV) eligibility for SNAP
benefits from six months to eight months. Attachment C of the guidance provided the
Quality Control hold harmless provisions for Afghani special immigrants. However,
there was an error listed for a date in the QC procedures.

This serves as a revision to the QC procedures in Attachment C which was initially
submitted with the guidance. In the second paragraph of the QC procedures it states,
"This variance exclusion would only apply to Afghani special immigrant households
certified on or after August 1, 2009." However, the correct date is August 1, 2008. There
are no additional changes to the QC procedures. The revised QC procedures are attached.

We apologize for any inconvenience that this mistake may have caused. If there are any
questions regarding the QC procedures, please contact the Quality Control Branch.

Karen J. Walker
Director
Program Accountability and Administration Division

Attachment

Revised Attachment C

Quality Control Review Procedures

A 120-day variance exclusion period is in effect for implementation of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009. The variance exclusion period is effective 30 days from the date of the guidance memorandum and continues for 120days from that date. If a State implements the revised guidance prior to 30 days from the date of the guidance, the 120-day variance exclusion period begins on the date of the State agency's implementation and continues for 120 calendar days from that date. If the State agency's implementation is later than 30 days from the date of the guidance, the variance exclusion will begin on the date of implementation and end on the date 120 days from the date 30 days after the date of this guidance memo, regardless of the date of implementation.

Any quality control (QC) variances related to determining the eligibility of Afghani special immigrants based on their status as special immigrants that occur, beginning with implementation of the guidance memorandum or 30 days from the date of the guidance memorandum, as appropriate, in cases that are new applications, recertified or have changes made during the applicable part of the 120-day variance exclusion will be excluded until the case is recertified. Any QC variances resulting from failure to provide benefits (based on the special immigration status) for an additional two months (for total of eight months) to Afghani special immigrant households certified prior to March 11, 2009, shall be excluded. This variance exclusion would only apply to Afghani special immigrant households certified on or after August 1, 2008.

Cases that have Afghani special immigrants will not have variances associated with the treatment of Afghani special immigrants included for QC error determination purposes beginning with March 11, 2009, the effective date of Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 and the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006, Public Law 109-163 as amended, until 30 days from the date of the guidance memorandum. If a State agency implements the guidance prior to 30 days from the date of the guidance memo, the 120-day variance exclusion in the above paragraph takes effect at that point.).

In an effort to comply with Section 101(a)(27) if the Act, QC reviewers should be alerted to identify those cases which were inappropriately denied benefits prior to the passage of these laws and notify the local offices to ensure that the households receive the appropriate restorations.